

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03  
NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15  
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 DOEE-00 /145 W  
-----008706 180401Z /17

O 180300Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2327

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 4532

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR VE  
SUBJECT: ARMS RESTRAINT FOLLOW-UP

1. I SAW PRES PEREZ THIS EVENING (MAY 17) TO DISCUSS ARMS RESTRAINT INITIATIVE. I REVIEWED SET OF NON-PAPERS, AND BRIEFED HIM ON ASPECTS OF TALK WITH SOVIETS AS WELL AS SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ROEL. I SAID PRESIDENT CARTER HAD BEEN MOST ENCOURAGED BY PRES PEREZ RESPONSE AND INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE SOME INITIATIVE TO REVIVE AYACUCHO. WE HOPED THIS WOULD NOW PROCEED.

2. PEREZ SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED CONSALVI TO COVER CONVENTIONAL ARMS LIMITATIONS IN THE MINISTER'S SPEECH TO THE SSOD (HE IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK MAY 24). HE HAS FURTHER ASKED CONSALVI TO RETURN TO CARACAS SUNDAY MAY 21 TO REVIEW WITH HIM (PRESIDENT) THE NON-PAPERS AND HIS SPEECH. PEREZ SAID IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO CABLE (PROBABLY THIS WEEK-END) THE PRESIDENTS OF THE AYACUCHO POWERS TO SUGGEST THAT THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET INFORMALLY IN NEW YORK TO DISCUSS SETTING UP A MORE FORMAL MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT LATER WITH AN AGENDA. I CALLED HIS ATTENTION AGAIN TO OUR ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES PAPER.

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3. PEREZ THEN SAID HE WANTED TO MENTION THAT THE US ACTION IN SELLING MODERN ARMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PHILOSOPHY OF RESTRICTING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS. THIS WILL SURELY BE CITED AGAINST US BY THOSE WANTING TO DISCREDIT THE INITIATIVE, AND THE US COULD BE ACCUSED OF SELF-INTEREST, HYPOCRACY AND SELECTIVITY. I REPLIED THAT AS PARADOXICAL AS IT MAY SEEM THE MIDDLE EAST ARMS TRANSFERS WOULD,

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, PROBABLY HAVE A RESTRAINING EFFECT ON ARMS ACQUISITION, AND, IN ANY CASE, WERE ESSENTIAL FOR THE PEACE OF THE REGION. WE HAD NO CHOICE. IT WAS PRECISELY, I SAID, THIS KIND OF SITUATION THAT MADE THE NEED FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE MATTER OF OVER-ALL ARMS RESTRAINT CRUCIAL. ONE HAD TO BEGIN SOMEWHERE; CRISIS AREAS LIKE THE MIDDLE EAST COULD NOT PROVIDE THAT OPPORTUNITY; THERE WAS NO TIME. THAT WAS WHY PRESIDENT CARTER WAS SO ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ WILLINGNESS TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE. IF THIS COULD BEGIN HERE, WE THEN HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN MOMENTUM ALL OVER THE WORLD BOTH IN SUPPLIER AND CONSUMER RESTRAINTS. IF THE POETS WERE RIGHT, I SAID, THAT QUOTE PATHS ARE MADE BY WALKING UNQUOTE, THEN PRES PEREZ HAD THE CHANCE TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP IN WHAT COULD WELL BE THE CREATION OF A TRULY HISTORIC ROAD. I MENTION THIS POINT AT LENGTH BECAUSE PEREZ HAS THE HABIT OF TELEGRAPHING HIS PUNCHES, AND SOME CRITICISM OF THE MIDDLE EAST ARMS TRANSFERS MAY WELL SHOW UP IN THE UN SPEECH. OUR DELEGATION SHOULD BE READY FOR IT.

4. PEREZ SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR EARLIER, THE LATTER COMING TO SEE HIM ON SSOD AND TO DESCRIBE THE "VERY SERIOUS" SITUATION WITH CHINA. PEREZ SAID HE SPOKE TO THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE NEED TO RESTRICT CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, AND THE AMBASSADOR LISTENED POLITELY. PEREZ SAID HE ALSO CRITICIZED CUBAN INTERVENTIONISM AND THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES AS DISTURBING THE SECURITY AND PEACE OF THE WORLD. THE SOVIET SAID THAT WAS TOO CONFIDENTIAL

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LONG A STORY TO DISCUSS.

5. COMMENT: I FOUND PEREZ AS COMMITTED AND PREPARED TO PROCEED AS DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH EINAUDI AND CLAPP, AND HE STILL PROFESSES TO HAVE CONCRETE PLANS TO HAVE AN INFORMAL CONSULTATION DURING THE SSOD. HE IS, HOWEVER, RUNNING A ONE MAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS BAND RIGHT NOW, AND HIS TREMENDOUS PREOCCUPATION WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MAY DIVERT HIS ATTENTION AND ENERGIES.

6. I AGAIN RECOMMEND THAT EINAUDI TRY TO GET TO CONSALVI BEFORE SUNDAY. HE COULD PERHAPS TALK TO CONSALVI HIMSELF, MENTION MY DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT, STATE THAT KNOWING THAT CONSALVI IS RETURNING TO DISCUSS HIS SPEECH AND THE SSOD WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY WOULD HOPE CONSALVI COULD RECEIVE EINAUDI PRIOR TO RETURNING TO CARACAS TO GET A FURTHER FILL-IN OF OUR VIEWS.  
VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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